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**STATEMENT BY MR. RAJA REZA  
REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA  
TO  
THE PLENARY SESSION OF  
THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

**31 JULY 2002**

**STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA**  
**ON THE PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE**  
**AT THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**  
**31 JULY 2002**

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Malaysian delegation, allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of the CD. We assure you of our full cooperation during the German Presidency. It is our hope that under your able leadership and guidance, the Conference will be able to commence its substantive work as soon as possible.

2. Malaysia welcomes the working paper jointly submitted by the delegations of China and the Russian Federation on 27 June 2002 entitled "Possible Elements for a Future International Legal Agreement on the Prevention of the Deployment of Weapons in Outer Space, the Threat or Use of Force against Outer Space Objects" (Document CD/1679). Malaysia supports this proposal which aims to prevent the deployment of weapons in outer space and the threat or use of force against outer space objects. Malaysia believes that an arms race in outer space should be prevented through a legally binding instrument and that the peaceful use of outer space should be guaranteed.

3. Outer space is the common heritage of mankind. It should be explored and utilised for peaceful purposes. The exploitation of the outer space should be to the benefit of mankind.

4. The development and testing of weapon systems in outer space and the use of space systems for military purposes are a matter of deep concern to Malaysia. We feel that if left unchecked, this intensification of military activities could trigger an arms race in outer space. Outer space should not be allowed to become a place for military confrontation.

5. Although there are several legal agreements related to outer space including the 1967 Treaty On Principles Governing The Activities Of States In The Exploration And Use Of Outer Space, Including The Moon And Other Celestial Bodies, these are insufficient especially under present day conditions. In this context, Malaysia believes that only a legal instrument prohibiting the deployment of weapons in outer space and the prevention of the threat or use of force against outer space objects can eliminate the emerging threat of the weaponisation of outer space.

6. As the sole multilateral negotiating forum for disarmament issues, the CD is the most appropriate forum to negotiate such a treaty. Resolution 56/23 adopted at the 56<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly "Reiterates that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects".

7. In this regard, Malaysia supports the early establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on PAROS. The CD has examined a number of important issues pertaining to the prevention of an arms race in outer space through the Ad Hoc Committee on PAROS established by the Conference from 1985 – 1994. However since 1995, the CD has not been able to re-establish this Ad Hoc Committee due to lack of agreement on its mandate.

8. Malaysia wishes to call upon all states particularly those with advanced space capabilities to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to refrain from actions contrary to that objective and to the relevant existing treaties for the sake of maintaining international peace and security.

9. Concerning the proposed treaty, Malaysia is of the view that the elements of cooperation and assistance for peaceful uses should be one of the salient features. It is suggested that as a further confidence building

measure, there should be a moratorium on the testing of all kinds of weapons and deployment of weapons in outer space.

Mr. President,

10. The joint working paper submitted by the delegations of China and the Russian Federation provides a very useful outline of some possible elements of an international legal agreement on PAROS. We wish to thank both delegations for their initiative which would contribute to our efforts to develop a treaty preventing the deployment of weapons and an arms race in outer space. The concept of maintaining outer space as a weapons-free environment, which is supported by the majority of states, should be recognised as an area of prime multilateral importance.

Thank you.